

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4780

1. Name

Historic 607 - 619 South Chapel Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 607 - 619 South Chapel Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | X occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| X building(s) | X private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | X private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | X yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This group of seven two-bay-wide, two-and-a-half story brick houses with gable roofs and dormer windows are typical of the paired or short rows of two-and-a-half story, Federal-style houses built in Baltimore in the 1820s. This particular group is also quite typical of the ways in which the older rowhouses in Baltimore have been "improved" over the years, reflecting the different tastes of different owners. All but one of the houses have been covered with formstone and that with the original brick façade has had a sheet metal cornice added sometime early in this century to give it a more up-to-date look.

The houses are two-and-a-half stories in height, range in width between 12' and 15' and occupy lots 60' deep. Each house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only entrance to the backyard is through the sallyport located in the center of the pair. The houses are constructed in common bond, but most have been covered with formstone. The pitched gable roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A simple corbelled brick cornice runs across the façade, hidden beneath the formstone. A double chimney located at the peak of the gable roof, along the outside wall of each unit, serves both the front and rear rooms. Each house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition.

The door and window openings are surmounted by segmentally-arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums. The sills are brick. The window openings are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. Each doorway has a single-light transom, one of which—stained glass bearing the house number—is a later upgrade. A variety of replacement door styles have been used. 607 has an Arts-and-Crafts-style door that was probably put on at the time the sheet metal cornice was added. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached directly from the street.

The houses are two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace. There are two bedrooms on the second floor of the main part of the house, each with a fireplace, and a third room in the dormer story.

8. Significance

| Period | Area of significance | check one & justify | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theatre | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900 | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: specify | |

Specific dates c. 1820

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant as being representative of the common form of two-and-a-half story houses built in the oldest sections of Baltimore in the first two decades of the nineteenth century. By the later 1820s and the 1830s, builders more often constructed longer rows of houses as speculative ventures, but at the beginning of the century pairs, involving less risk and less initial capital, were the rule. The houses do not differ markedly from the two-and-a-half story houses built on nearby main streets—they are simply somewhat narrower and smaller versions priced to serve less affluent residents of the old walking city.

These particular houses were built at a time when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller scale and more affordable housing located on the small “alley” streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Chapel Street was known as Star Alley and its occupants were racially mixed.

The houses are especially significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only a few blocks from the water, and represent an integral part of the history of this National Register district. Slated for demolition in the 1960s as part of the planned East-West highway connection existing segments of I-95 to the north and south of the city, these houses were saved by local preservation activists who created the Fells Point National Register District in 1969.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4780

607-619 S. Chapel St

BALTO. MD

1906 City Atlas

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FOUNTAIN ST.

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GERMAN AMERICAN
CHEMICAL PAINT & VARNISH

DAVIS & HARR

A. BOOTH
PACKING COMPANY

MACHINE SHOP

WOODFORD &
SONS
COAL
YARD

1848

DAVIDSON & CO
DYESTUFF
PACKING

DAVIDSON & CO
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PACKING
WARE HOUSE

BOSTON
CAN. MFG.

L.A. Sheppard & Co
EXCISION STOVE
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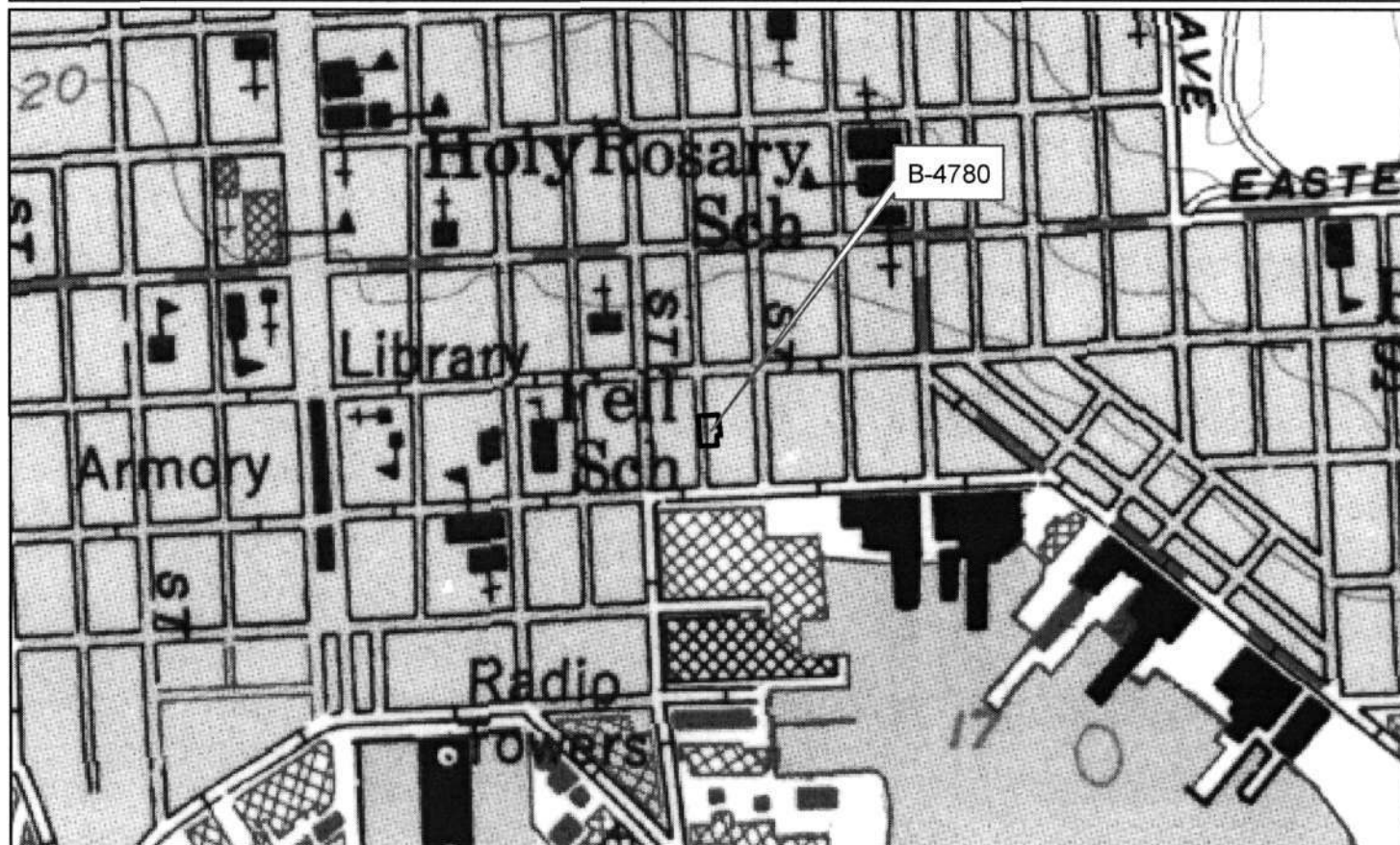
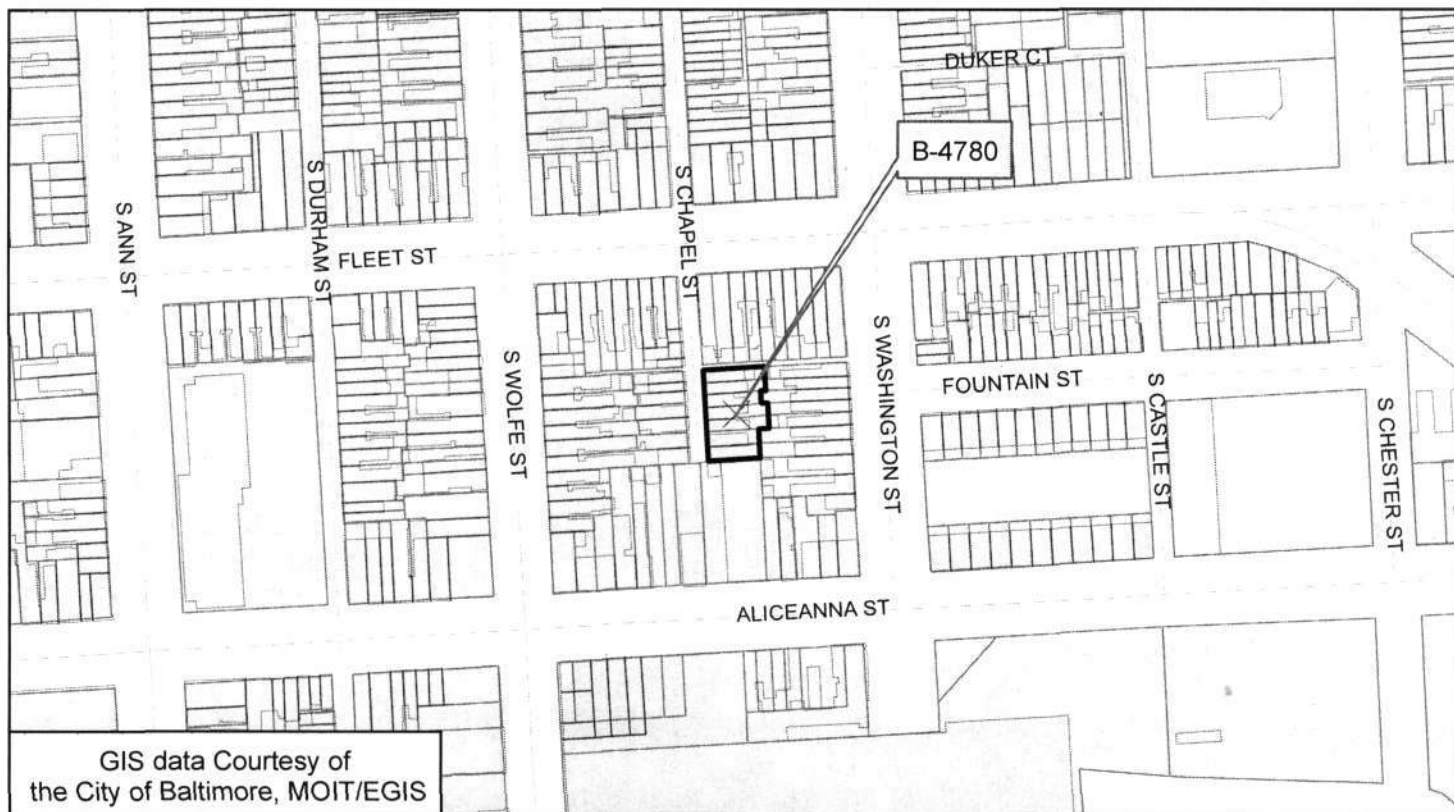
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B-4780
607-619 S. Chapel Street
Block 1830 Lots 066-072
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





607-615 S Chapel

FPR

B-4780

607-619 S. Chapel St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belfrage

6/97

180

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607 S Chapel

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607-619 S. Chapel St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

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609 S Chapel

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